

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 479

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Connie Longley on her receipt of the Healthcare Hero Award.

WHEREAS, over much of its history, Tennessee has been known as the Volunteer State. It has been the home of so many valiant men, women, and children who have responded with great courage and strength of character in times of trouble and adversity; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean is Connie Longley, the Director of Surgery at Parkridge Medical Center in Chattanooga and the 2013 recipient of the Healthcare Hero Award from the Tennessee Hospital Association; and

WHEREAS, a thirty-year employee of Parkridge, Ms. Longley responded with compassion and concern in September of 2012 as her colleague, Sande Shealy, Parkridge's Director of Day Surgery, received news that her daughter, Haley, had fallen and suffered a traumatic brain injury while on vacation in Cozumel, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Longley was by Mrs. Shealy's side when she received the news that Haley was non-responsive at the Cozumel Medical Center and remained with her, providing support, as they attempted to locate resources and gain information about the young woman's condition; and

WHEREAS, when Sande Shealy discovered that she did not have a passport that would allow her to travel to Mexico to be with her daughter, Connie Longley immediately volunteered to fly there in her place. Less than ten hours after receiving the initial news of the accident, and with very little sleep, Connie Longley was on her way to Atlanta to catch a flight to Cozumel with Sande's husband; and

WHEREAS, upon arriving in Mexico, the pair went straight to the hospital where Ms. Longley helped care for Haley and called Sande regularly with updates and provided guidance to the Shealy family as needed; and

WHEREAS, a Life Flight was set up the next day and both Connie Longley and Sande Shealy's husband were able to accompany Haley on the jet for the flight to Chattanooga and transport to Erlanger Hospital's Trauma Unit; and

WHEREAS, today, Haley is doing well and has completely recovered from her injuries and Connie Longley has earned a very special place in the hearts of the Shealy family; and

WHEREAS, in the best tradition of the medical profession, Ms. Longley's actions during her colleague's time of need are clearly deserving of special recognition and praise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Connie Longley of Chattanooga upon her receipt of the 2013 Healthcare Hero Award from the Tennessee Hospital Association as we join with her family, her colleagues, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee in expressing our admiration and appreciation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.